

## INTRO

**OVERVIEW OF ACTS (revision for those who were at Kidz Camp)**

What are the history books of the New Testament?

*Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and Acts*

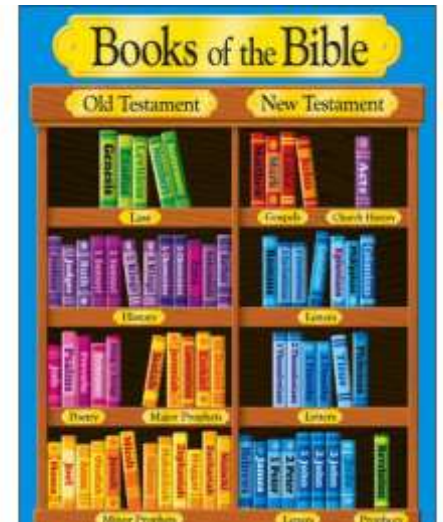
The first 4 books are known as the Gospels; they were written by four people (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) about the life of Jesus.

Jesus came to earth as a baby. That's why we celebrate Christmas. Jesus died for us on the cross. And rose again. That's why we celebrate Good Friday and Easter.

After the Gospels is the book of Acts.

It is written by Luke, who is a medical doctor.

Acts is a book of adventure. It talks about what God did among the early Christians — those who believed in Jesus. It tells us all about the exciting acts of the Holy Spirit and invites us to join along on this ***Adventure with Jesus***.



## LESSON (Acts 1)

**JESUS' PROMISE**

After Jesus rose from the dead, He met with many disciples to prove that He was really alive. He spent 40 days with them and taught them about God's kingdom.

Then over a meal, He told them, "Do not leave Jerusalem. I am sending you a gift from my Father. Wait for it!"

The disciples wanted to know when Jesus will come back again. Jesus told them that only the Father knows. But He assured the disciples that they will not be alone.

Read this: *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* **Acts 1:8**

Then He went up to heaven before the disciples' eyes.

**What did Jesus promise?****GOD'S GIFT, THE HOLY SPIRIT**

God is three Persons in one— The Father, The Son (Jesus) and The Spirit (Holy Spirit).

When Jesus was on earth, He was fully God, but fully man. As a man, He couldn't stay forever on earth. He can also only be at one place at one time.

So God the Holy Spirit had to come. Because the Holy Spirit can be everywhere and in everyone's hearts at the same time.

In the same way, your mummy and daddy can't be with you all the time. But God's Holy Spirit can be with you every second of every day.

**THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL GIVE THEM POWER**

Wow. The disciples have seen what Jesus has done on earth — all His powerful and miraculous acts. They could not do any of these on their own strength. But with the power of the Holy Spirit, they can do even greater and more wonderful things.

So can we!

### THEY WILL BE WITNESSES FOR JESUS — PEOPLE WHO SHINE JESUS' LIGHT IN THEM

With Jesus' life and Spirit in them, the disciples be His witnesses — those who have seen what Jesus has done and tell others about Him. They could become Jesus people and share His love and light to everyone around them!

So can we!

#### Where?\*

In Jerusalem: Where they were

Judea: Neighbouring area

Samaria: the land of the enemies of the Jews

Ends of the earth



#### Where do you think you can start sharing about Jesus?\*

Our Jerusalem: Where we are — our family?

Our Judea: Our friends? Schoolmates? Neighbours? Teachers? Aunty at the coffee shop?

Our Samaria: People we don't like? People who are mean to us?

Ends of the earth: Anywhere God leads us — Orang asli? Strangers?

#### \* Note:

for younger classes, you can simplify the Acts 1:8 to

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere."*

Everywhere can include: family, friends, schoolmates, people we don't like, people we don't know etc.

Let's go on this Adventure with Jesus with the Power of His Holy Spirit!

### MEMORY VERSE

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* **Acts 1:8**

actions:

<i>But <u>you</u>:</i>	point forward
<i>will receive <u>power</u>:</i>	pull down both arms into muscle position
<i>when the <u>Holy Spirit comes on you</u>:</i>	use hand to bring a flame/dove onto top of head
<i>and you will be my <u>witnesses</u>:</i>	cup hands around mouth
<i>in <u>Jerusalem</u>:</i>	point finger in front of you
<i>and in <u>all Judea</u>:</i>	use finger to draw a circle in front of you
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[younger kids]

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere."* **Acts 1:8**

actions: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S-vDfGPoQU0&t=39s>

Or song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N6oLVNwwqgQ&t=35s>

### ACTIVITY IDEAS

Ring toss [https://mrmarksclassroom.com/acts\\_1\\_8/](https://mrmarksclassroom.com/acts_1_8/)

### HUDDLE TIME

Kids to break up in small groups. Get kids to share: "Who do I want to share Jesus with?"

Take turns praying for the friends and family who do not yet know Jesus.

Bless each child and close in prayer.

Get kids to fill up the contact card.

## HOOK &amp; REVIEW

## HOOK

Prepare a flashlight but remove the batteries first.

Ask the children turn on the flashlight. No light should come on. Ask the children why. Open the flashlights and show the children that it is because there are no batteries.

Insert the batteries and get the children to try again. The light should come on.

Explain to the children that the batteries remind us of the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus has given us a **mission** on our **Adventure with Him**. But it is not something we can do on our own strength. That's why we need His gift of the Holy Spirit.

When God's Spirit lives inside of us, we have the power to live like Jesus boys and girls. And just like the batteries power the flashlights to shine brightly, the Holy Spirit gives us the power to tell the whole world about Jesus' goodness and love!

## REVIEW MEMORY VERSE WITH ACTIONS

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## LESSON (Acts 2)

Before Jesus went back to heaven, He told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for God's gift — the Holy Spirit, which will give the disciples power to be His witness everywhere.

Not long after Jesus ascended to heaven, the day of Pentecost came.

Pentecost was a Jewish feast to commemorate the giving of the Law to Moses at Sinai. Every year, Jews from many different countries would go to Jerusalem to bring gifts and offerings to God during that time.

But this year, something very special happened.

**TONGUES OF FIRE**

On the day of Pentecost, Jesus' followers were all gathered in a house when suddenly ... a strong wind came from heaven and filled the entire place. Suddenly, they saw what looked like tongues of fire resting on each of them. They were filled with the Holy Spirit!

**Song Suggestion: "The Pentecost Song"** (sang to the tune of "Are you sleeping?")

*Flames of Fire, Flames of Fire*

*Mighty Wind, Mighty Wind*

*Holy Spirit's coming, Holy Spirit's coming*

*With His power, with His power*

**TONGUES OF MANY LANGUAGES**

The power of the Holy Spirit showed itself in a special way. Jesus' followers began to speak in other languages, talking all about how wonderful God is. Some of the Jews who were visiting from other countries heard Jesus' followers talking. They were amazed to hear their own language being spoken. For example, Jews who lived in Greece heard the disciples speaking Greek; Jews who lived in Arabia heard the disciples speaking Arabic; Jews who lived in Egypt heard the disciples speaking Egyptian etc.

That's pretty amazing, isn't it? Remember, the disciples were all fishermen or people with little education. And they were standing in front of so many people and telling them about Jesus.

**DRUNK BEFORE DAWN?**

In fact, it was so unbelievable that some people thought the disciples were drunk.

But Peter stood up and spoke to the crowd. "These people are not drunk," he says. This is actually part of a prophecy by the prophet Joel, where God promised to pour out His Spirit on all people.

Peter told the people about Jesus and all He has done for us on the cross!

And that day, 3000 people believed and were baptized. Isn't that amazing?

**THE START OF A NEW COVENANT** [for older kids]

The coming of the Holy Spirit marked the start of God's New Covenant with His people.

The Old Covenant was given thousands of years before when God gave His law on tablets of stone through Moses. But the people broke the law on the first day itself by worshipping a golden calf, and they were punished and 3,000 people died. (Under the Old Covenant, if you obey the full law, you'd be blessed. If you break 1 law, you'd be punished.)

OLD COVENANT	NEW COVENANT
The LAW was given	The HOLY SPIRIT was given
3,000 died	3,000 saved
The Holy Spirit came and left whenever He wanted to	The Holy Spirit came to live in our hearts forever and ever.

But when God sent His Spirit on Pentecost, under the New Covenant, when we believe in Jesus, we receive His new life, we receive His Holy Spirit, and this Holy Spirit lives with us forever!

We don't always see the Holy Spirit like Jesus' followers did — as tongues of fire over their heads — but He can still do amazing things in us and through us! He gives us power to be Jesus boys and girls, so we can share Jesus' love with everyone around us, near and far.

**Illustration suggestion: Hairdryer and Ping-Pong ball**

Turn on the hairdryer and place the ball in the stream of air. Explain that just as we cannot see the air coming out of the hair dryer, we can see that it is helping the ball to float.

**VIDEOS**

Sharefaith <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ebfVqe1Fd0Q>



## ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

**REVISE MEMORY VERSE (with actions)**

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* **Acts 1:8**

[younger kids]

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere."* **Acts 1:8**

**CRAFT: Tongues of Fire**

Have several pieces of red, orange, and yellow fun foam cut into the shape of flames. Have the pieces of each flame packaged together for each kid to make distribution easier. Have the kids glue the three pieces of the flame together, create headbands out of lengths of black cardboard, and staple the flames to the headband.

Teach the kids to explain to their parents and siblings when they are asked why they had flames over their heads (e.g. "Jesus gave me His Holy Spirit to live in my heart forever")

**HUDDLE TIME**

Get kids to share and pray for the friends and family who do not yet know Jesus.

Bless each child and close in prayer.

Lesson reference: <https://whenoneteachestwolearn.wordpress.com/tag/pentecost/>



## HOOK &amp; REVIEW

## REVIEW MEMORY VERSE WITH ACTIONS

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## LESSON (Acts 2b)

**HOLY SPIRIT MESSAGE**

Last week we ended our story with the disciples and Peter filled with the Holy Spirit, speaking to the crowd of Jewish people. Even though the Jewish people were from many different countries, they heard the disciples talk about the wonderful works of God in their own language.

Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit as he told the crowd about how:

- Jesus died on the cross and God raised Him from the dead.
- Jesus' death and resurrection was prophesied many years ago.
- Everyone in the crowd had a part to play in crucifying Jesus, the Savior whom God sent.

Everyone who heard those words were "cut to their hearts". They realised that it was because of their sin that Jesus had to die on the cross. That was a conviction by the Holy Spirit.

Peter told them to repent — to change their minds and put their trust in Jesus — and be baptized — so they can tell everyone they have believed in Jesus. By believing in Jesus, their sins would be forgiven and they would receive God's Holy Spirit.

**BIRTH OF THE CHURCH**

Last week, we also learned that 3,000 people decided to believe in Jesus.

Not only was this a day of celebrating, it was also the day that the very first church was born.

A church is not a building; it is made up of people who believe in the Lord Jesus.

[So tNCC is not this building. tNCC is a church of God's people. Wherever God's people are, we are His church. We are God's family.]

The new believers gathered together regularly to hear the apostles teach about Jesus.

Let's read **Acts 2:42-47** to find out what else they did.

*<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

The early church:

- Listened to the teachings about Jesus
- Fellowshiped & met regularly
- Broke bread/Celebrated the Lord's Supper — why?
- Signs & wonders
- Shared and helped one another
- Praised God
- God continued to save people every day, causing the church to continue to grow

#### VIDEO

LifeKids: What is the Church <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rms6KePjIz8>



#### Activity suggestion #1:

Prepare cards with pictures showing what the early church did, based on Acts 2:42-47. Show each card and get the kids to guess what each picture represents.

There are all sorts of variations you can use, according to age group.

E.g.

Hide cards around class and get kids to find them;

Get kids to draw a picture and let the rest of the class guess;

Stick a card at the back of each kid, and they have to guess which picture it is by asking their friends "Yes/No" questions.

#### Activity suggestion #2:

Divide class into groups and get each group to draw out a poster of what the early church looked like. Include a picture of the Holy Spirit, which was the engine of the early church.



Some questions for discussion:

*Of all the things the early church did, what do you like best?*

*Which activity does our church do together?*

*What would you like to see happen more in our church?*

There are lots of ways we can act like the early church and work together with God's family.

Let's think about some of the ways. (show photos and get kids to give their input)

*How could we help somebody who is sick in the hospital?*

*How could we help somebody who is getting teased?*

*How could we help somebody who doesn't have enough food?*

Like the early church, we too have the Holy Spirit in us, and He gives us power to show and share Jesus' love to everybody around us.

So let's praise God together for making us part of His family. And let Him bring more and more people into this wonderful family of His.

## ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

**Acts 4:32** *"They shared everything they had."*

actions:

<i>They</i>	point to others
<i>shared</i>	hands outstretched towards others
<i>everything they had.</i>	make big circle with arms
<i>Acts 4:32</i>	palms together, then open

**HUDDLE TIME**

Kids to break up in small groups — normally a girls group and boys group works best.

Encourage and challenge the kids to meet regularly (don't always skip church etc) and to listen to the word about Jesus. Break bread/have Holy Communion with the children and encourage them to remember what Jesus has done on the cross for them.

Share prayer needs and pray together.

### HOOK & REVIEW

#### REVIEW MEMORY VERSE WITH ACTIONS

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[younger kids]

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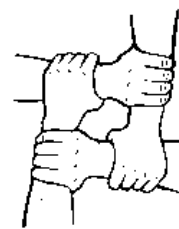
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#### HOOK

Have you ever been carried? (Talk about your own experiences or suggest times when a person might be carried.) A baby has to be carried because they can't walk. A parent might carry a child to bed when they are sleepy. A fireman might carry a person out of a burning building when they save them.

<optional> four-hand seat carry demonstration

Think about what it would be like if you could never walk anywhere and someone would always have to carry you. In today's story we are going to talk about a man who couldn't walk. He didn't have a wheelchair, and someone always had to carry him.



**A** EACH BEARER GRASPS ONE OF HIS WRISTS AND ONE OF THE OTHER BEARER'S WRISTS, THUS FORMING A PACKSADDLE.



**B** THE TWO BEARERS LOWER THEMSELVES SUFFICIENTLY FOR THE CASUALTY TO SIT ON THE PACKSADDLE; THEN THEY HAVE THE CASUALTY PLACE HIS ARMS AROUND THEIR SHOULDERS FOR SUPPORT BEFORE THEY RISE TO AN UPRIGHT POSITION.

Figure B-14. Four-hand seat carry (Illustrated A and B).



## STORY (Acts 3)

Peter and John were two of Jesus' closest disciples. One day, when they were going to the temple to pray, they saw a man sitting right beside the gate (called "Beautiful Gate"). As they moved closer, they noticed that the man was crippled. He could not walk.

Now this was not the first time the crippled man sat there. His friends brought him to the temple every single day so he could ask people for money. Since he couldn't get a job or work, he was hoping the kind people who were going into the temple to worship God would see him and have compassion on him and give him money so he would be able to have food and other necessary things.

The man saw Peter and John and as usual, he stretched out his hand to ask for money. "Please, do you have some money you could give me? I really, really need money."

Well, our friends, Peter and John, looked at the man and told him, "Look at us!"

The man looked up in eagerness, expecting to be given money. He had no idea what an unusual day THIS was going to be!

Imagine his dismay when Peter and John said, "We don't have any money!"

Imagine his surprise when they said, "We want to give you something better than money!"

He thought about that. He was quite confused. After all, what could be BETTER than money?

Then he heard Peter say something very strange. "In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!"

"Walk? Who? ME? They expect me to WALK? I have NEVER walked! I have never walked before in my whole life! From the time I was a little child, I have always wanted to walk. Now they are telling me to just get up and walk. How can THAT be? Can it really happen? Will I really be able to walk? Hmmm ... Should I try? Or should I ignore them and just sit here?" You can imagine all these thoughts flying through the man's mind in just a few seconds.

Before he even knew what was happening, Peter reached down, took him by the right hand, and lifted him up. IMMEDIATELY his feet and anklebones received strength. He couldn't believe what was happening! His feet were actually HOLDING HIM UP! He JUMPED up, he STOOD up, and he WALKED around. He went into the temple for the first time in his life. This was SO exciting! He was WALKING and JUMPING for the first time in his life. He was PRAISING God because of the amazing thing that had just happened to him.



All the people saw him WALKING and JUMPING and PRAISING God. They knew it was that crippled man who had sat outside the gate of the temple for many years begging for money. They recognized him and they were full of surprise and wondered what and how this had happened.

The people started running toward Peter and John. They thought Peter and John had done a great miracle and they wanted them to do MORE miracles.

Peter immediately started preaching to the crowd.

“STOP! STOP!” he yelled. “Why are you so surprised about this? Why are you looking at us? WE did not perform this miracle. WE did not make this man able to walk!

It is Jesus — the one whom you killed but was raised to life by God. This man was made strong by faith in the name of Jesus. *It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him!* (Acts 3:16)

Believe in Him and be saved!”

### **THE HOLY SPIRIT'S POWER ENABLES US TO LIVE SUPERNATURALLY**

Isn't Jesus powerful? Because Peter and John believed in Jesus, His Holy Spirit was in them, and they could do the great and mighty things Jesus did when He was on earth.

Peter and John believed in Jesus and His Holy Spirit was in them, enabling them to do great and mighty things like Jesus did when He was on earth.

When we believe in Jesus, this same Holy Spirit is in us. It is already doing supernatural works in OUR lives! And It will do supernatural works through us!

Would you like to believe in Jesus?

### **LET US GIVE OTHERS WHAT WE HAVE — JESUS!**

Often times, we may feel inadequate. We may not have any silver or gold. We may not see every lame person we pray for get up and walk. But just the man's friends who carried him to the temple gates every day, we can bring people to the source of all power — Jesus.

So by faith, through the Holy Spirit working in us, let's stretch out our hands and lift up people who are lost, in need, miserable, sick or empty inside and bring them to the temple (church) so they can experience Jesus and receive from Him.

The logo features the word "ACTS" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letter "T" is replaced by a white flame-like shape. The background is a vibrant yellow and orange geometric pattern of triangles.

**ACTS**

**TNCC  
CHILDREN'S  
CHURCH**

# **ACTS: SPIRIT'S POWER**

**WEEK 4**

We give what God has given us. We can give out what we already have in Jesus — love, joy, health, peace, etc. Even a simple word and act of kindness can transform lives.

So let's continue in our adventure with Jesus and see His Holy Spirit work miracles in and through us!

### ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

**SONG:** Peter and John went to pray

<https://youtu.be/XaoljXkjU0s>

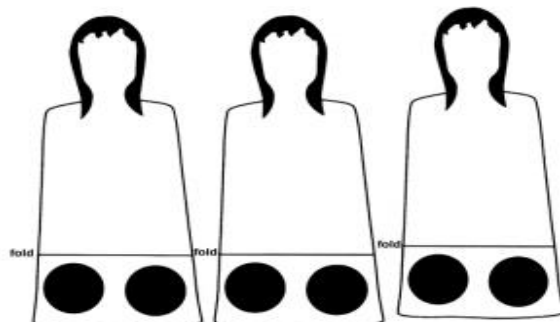
Get kids to sing along and do the actions.

**HUDDLE TIME** [important to get the kids to exercise the power of the Holy Spirit]

Get the kids into small groups to share their prayer needs. Have the children stretch forth their hands to each other and speak Jesus' name, spirit and life into whatever situation they are facing. Encourage them to believe that Jesus is more powerful than any problem they have.

**RELATED CRAFT with MEMORY VERSE**

**Acts 3:16** "It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him."



## HOOK &amp; REVIEW

**REVIEW MEMORY VERSE WITH ACTIONS**

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**GAME: Blanket Name Game**

Kids introduce themselves. Divide them into 2 groups and each kid takes turn to represent their group. Hold up a blanket between the 2 representatives. When the blanket drops, the representatives have to shout out each other's names. Whoever shouts first wins, and the team gets a point.

**GAME: Ball Toss**

Kids sit in a circle and introduce themselves. Prepare a small plastic ball. Call the name of a kid and toss the ball to them. Kid has to call another name before tossing the ball to that person.

Variations for older kids: add on a nickname or adjective that others have to call, e.g. Joyful Jane, Happy Harry, Brave Bob etc.

## STORY (Acts 4)

## REVIEW SONG: Peter and John went to pray

<https://youtu.be/XaoliXkjU0s>

Get kids to sing along and do the actions.

After the lame man stood up and walked and jumped, everyone was completely amazed and ran to Peter and John.

So Peter started preaching to them. *“Men of Israel, why are you amazed and in wonder? Did you think we did this by our own? **It is Jesus** — the one you killed when you arrested him and handed over to the Romans. You killed the Author of Life, whom God rose from the dead.*

*And **His name** — by faith in His name — has made this man strong and in perfect health! God raised Jesus up so that He could bless you and turn you from wickedness. So **believe in Him!**”*

Many who heard the word believed!

As Peter and John were speaking to the people, the priests and Sadducees and captain of the temple came to arrest them and put them in prison.

The next day, the rulers and elders gathered in Jerusalem and interrogated Peter and John again. *“By what power or **by what name** did you do this?”*

Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, *“This man was healed **by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth**, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead — by him, this man is standing before you well. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, **for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.**”*

The rulers were surprised because they saw how bold Peter and John were. You must remember ... Peter was the coward who ran away when Jesus was arrested and denied him 3 times when someone recognized him. And they were just fishermen, uneducated, common man. The rulers *recognised that they had been with Jesus.*”

And the man who was lame since birth — he couldn't walk for more than 40 years! — was standing there beside them, so they couldn't say anything. They discussed among themselves and decided, *“In order that it may spread no further among the people, **let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name.**”*

ACTS:  
THE NAME OF JESUS

So they told Peter and John that they could NOT speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered them, *“Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot help to speak of what we have seen and heard.”*

The rulers couldn't punish them, so they just threatened them and let them go. Peter and John returned to the disciples, and they all prayed and were filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

**THE NAME OF JESUS GIVES YOU THE AUTHORITY AND POWER OF JESUS.**

It was the name of Jesus — and faith in it — that made the lame man well.

It was the name of Jesus and His Holy spirit that gave the disciples boldness.

It was the name of Jesus that they couldn't stop talking about.

**THE NAME OF JESUS IS NOT THE ENDING TO YOUR PRAYER, BUT THE WHOLE REASON YOU CAN PRAY!**

It is as if Jesus Himself is speaking it.

It is based on His worthiness to receive.

It is like taking from His overflowing account in Heaven (coz yours is empty).

Do you know Jesus?

Do you believe in Him? Do you have His Holy Spirit in you?

Do you know that if the Holy Spirit is in you, you can use the name of Jesus and speak like Jesus spoke?

## ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

**HUDDLE TIME** [important to get the kids to learn to pray in the name of Jesus]

Get the kids into small groups to share their prayer needs. Have the children stretch forth their hands to each other and speak Jesus' name, spirit and life into whatever situation they are facing. Encourage them to believe that they have Jesus' power and authority when they pray in His name over any problem they have.

**REVIEW SONG: Peter and John went to pray**

<https://youtu.be/XaoliXkiU0s>

Get kids to sing along and do the actions.

**SONG: No other Name**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I2-ybVUXM-A>

**RELATED CRAFT with MEMORY VERSE**

**Acts 4:12** *"God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved."*



## HOOK &amp; REVIEW

## HOOK

Prepare some water bottles as a target, and some pieces newspapers.

Get the kids into 2 groups, roll up the newspapers into balls and throw at the targets. First team to knock down all the water bottles wins.

You may want to put some water or sand in the bottles as added weight, but not too heavy because the newspapers are light.

## REVIEW MEMORY VERSE WITH ACTIONS

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* **Acts 1:8**

actions:

<i>But you:</i>	point forward
<i>will receive power:</i>	pull down both arms into muscle position
<i>when the Holy Spirit comes on you:</i>	use hand to bring a flame/dove onto top of head
<i>and you will be my witnesses:</i>	cup hands around mouth
<i>in Jerusalem:</i>	point finger in front of you
<i>and in all Judea:</i>	use finger to draw a circle in front of you
<i>and Samaria:</i>	use finger to draw a bigger circle
<i>and to the ends of the earth:</i>	stretch both arms as wide as possible

[younger kids]

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere."* **Acts 1:8**

actions: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S-vDfGPoQU0&t=39s>

**STORY (Acts 6-7)**

Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit. And then they would be His witnesses, not just in Jerusalem, but in all Judea and Samaria, and all over the world.

At the moment, all the disciples were still meeting together in Jerusalem.

**SEVEN CHOSEN TO SERVE**

As the group of believers got bigger, there were lots of people to care for, especially widows. The disciples had to focus on prayer and teaching the word of Christ. So they decided to choose 7 men to help with the serving and caring of the people.

These 7 men had to be:

- Good reputation
- Full of the Holy Spirit
- Wise

So 7 men were chosen:

- Stephen — described as a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit
- Philip
- Prochorus
- Nicanor
- Timon
- Parmenas
- Nicolaus, who was from Antioch

The disciples laid hands on them and prayed for them.

Aren't the names funny? Let's read them again and pay particular attention to the first two (Stephen and Philip). We will be learning more about them this and next Sunday.

**STEPHEN: FULL OF GRACE AND POWER**

One of the 7 men, Stephen, was a man who was full of grace and power. He did great wonders and signs among the people and told them about Jesus.

Some people who heard Stephen preaching didn't like him talking about Jesus. They tried arguing with him, but Stephen would answer them full of wisdom and the Holy Spirit.

So they arrested him and brought before the religious leaders. They told lies, saying, "This man wants to destroy the temple and God's law."

The religious leaders looked at Stephen. And they all saw that his face was like an angel. "Are these things so?" they asked.

Stephen took this opportunity to tell everyone about how, through the ages, God's plan was to save His people through His son, Jesus.

**STEPHEN: FULL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

All these made the people even more angry. Because they didn't believe in Jesus, and they had called for Jesus' death.

But Stephen didn't look at the angry crowd. Instead, he looked to Jesus. He saw heaven and Jesus standing at God's right hand.

When he told the people what he saw, they cried out with a loud voice, shut their eyes and charged at him. They dragged him out to the city and stoned him.

Do you know what stoning is? Do you know what you did earlier today ... throwing those paper balls at the bottles? Imagine you were doing that with big rocks ... at a person. Yup, they were throwing rocks at Stephen to kill him.

It would have been a very painful and slow death. But before he died, Stephen cried out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit", and then, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them."

Do you recognize those words? That's right. Jesus said something similar when He was hanging on the cross. (Luke 23:34, 46)

And approving all these was a young man named Saul, whom we will learn about later.

## LESSON

**STEPHEN KEPT HIS EYES ON JESUS**

He was filled with Jesus' Spirit. He served the church well. He was not afraid of telling people about Jesus even when they hated him for it. He continued to look to Jesus even when he was attacked and stoned. And when he died, he knew he was going to be with his beloved Lord and Saviour, and he was not afraid.

**EVEN WHEN THE CHURCH WAS ATTACKED, GOD WORKED OUT HIS PURPOSES.**

Stephen's death should have destroyed the church. There was great persecution/attack against the church in Jerusalem, and the believers ran away.

**Acts 8:1** *And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.*

But God used this "running away" to spread the good news about Jesus to everyone in those regions.

Interestingly, Acts 8:1 is the fulfillment of part of Acts 1:8. The believers became witnesses in all Judea and Samaria.

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

**LET'S NOT STOP TALKING ABOUT JESUS**

The early church showed us that sometimes, believing in Jesus can cost us our lives. But we do not have to be afraid. We know Jesus loves us sooooo much that He gave us His life. And we are forever with Him. Let's continue to keep our eyes on Jesus. And let's trust God to turn a bad situation into good.

Let's continue to tell our friends and family and neighbours about how much Jesus loves them and what He has done for them on the cross.

The logo for ACTS features the letters 'ACTS' in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letter 'T' is replaced by a white cross. The background is a vibrant yellow and orange geometric pattern.

TNCC  
CHILDREN'S  
CHURCH

# ACTS: STEPHEN SAW JESUS

## ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

**Huddle Time** [important to get the kids to learn to pray for and share Jesus with those who do not yet know Him]

Get the kids into small groups to share a name or 2 of those who do not know Jesus yet, and pray together for them.

## HOOK &amp; REVIEW

## REVIEW MEMORY VERSE WITH ACTIONS

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* **Acts 1:8**

actions:

<i>But you:</i>	point forward
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[younger kids]

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere."* **Acts 1:8**

actions: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S-vDfGPoQU0&t=39s>

## HOOK

Write on a sheet of paper the following passage of scripture in **Acts 8:32b- 33**:

*"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth."*

Roll up the paper like a scroll, and ask one of the children (with good reading skills) to read.

(You can make a scroll by using 2 chopsticks or rolling up pieces of paper to make sticks for the top and bottom end of the scroll.)

Ask them who they think the passage is about.

This person was like a sheep being led to its slaughter (was going to be killed) and a silent lamb before its shearer (the person whom shaves its wool off). It is about a person who did not do anything wrong but did not fight or speak out to defend himself when he was facing death as a punishment.

It was about Jesus.

Who wrote this? A prophet named Isaiah wrote it about 700 years before Jesus was born. God told him what would happen.

## STORY (Acts 8)

**ONE OF THE SEVEN**

Last week, the disciples chose 7 men to help with the serving and caring of the people. One of them was Stephen, who was not afraid of telling people about Jesus, even when they were stoning him to death, he kept looking and Jesus and was full of joy.

Another of those 7 men was Philip. We will hear more about him today.

Philip went to the city of Samaria and told them about Jesus. He also healed many weak and crippled people there. People in that city heard the good news and were full of joy.

God wanted people to hear about Jesus and be saved. He arranged for believers to meet people to tell them about Jesus. One of the people who got to know Jesus was a man from Ethiopia.

**PHILIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN**

God's angel said to Philip, *"Go to the desert road that leads from Jerusalem to Gaza."* So Philip did what the angel said, and he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official who was in charge of all the Ethiopian queen's treasures. *(If asked, explain that a eunuch was a man who served in the palace and was not allowed to have a girlfriend, wife or children.)*

This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship and was on his way home. He was sitting in his chariot reading from the scroll, the writings of Isaiah the prophet, which was the passage we read at the start of the class.

The Holy Spirit told Philip to run up to the chariot and Philip did so. Philip heard the man reading and he asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

The man didn't understand, so Philip began explaining that passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus — Jesus was like a sheep being led to its slaughter and a silent lamb before its shearer. He allowed himself to be caught, beaten and killed because he took the punishment for our sins so that we can have eternal life.

Philip told the eunuch that if he believed in Jesus, he too would have eternal life. He told him to get baptized if he believed. The eunuch believed.

As they travelled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch wanted to be baptized. So Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again but went on his way rejoicing.

Philip, however, appeared in another town and travelled about, sharing with people about Jesus in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.



## LESSON

**GOD PUTS US WHERE HE WANTS US TO BE**

After Stephen died, the church was scattered away from Jerusalem. Philip went to Samaria, and the people in Samaria got to hear the good news. God sent his angel to tell Philip where to go to meet the Ethiopian and because Philip did what the angel told him, he met the man, told him about Jesus and the man believed.

We can see that Philip was positioned strategically by the Lord. Likewise, the Lord can bring us to the right place at the right time. God will align our paths and bring people our way at the right time and the right place. God is working behind the scenes; we can trust His leading to position us strategically.

There are times when God may put us in a place that is new to us; e.g. a new class/school/ neighbourhood/town/city/country. Don't be afraid. God is with you. He may have someone special He wants you to meet, to encourage, to help or to share the good news.

**LET US LISTEN TO GOD**

God directed Philip's actions and words. He told him which road to take. He told Him to run up to the chariot. After his encounter with the Egyptian eunuch, God took Philip to another place.

In the same way, God can speak and direct our ways. There are many ways that the Lord can speak to us. He is a practical Abba who guides and leads us through His Holy Spirit living in us. He can speak to us through Scriptures, during prayer, through words from others, through the lyrics of a song, through audio messages we hear, through situations and circumstances, etc. As we spend time with our Abba Father, we will be able to discern His voice, leading and direction. God will give us specific directions like to call a person and encourage or pray for someone etc.

**LET'S NOT STOP TALKING ABOUT JESUS**

Many believers ran away to different places in Judea and Samaria. They lost their homes. But everywhere the believers went, they told people about Jesus. Even though they faced persecution and death, they kept telling others about Jesus everywhere they went.

Let's continue to keep our eyes on Jesus and tell our friends and family and neighbours about how much Jesus loves them and what He has done for them on the cross.

## ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

**HUDDLE TIME** [important to get the kids to learn to pray for and share Jesus with those who do not yet know Him]

Last Sunday, the kids shared the names of those whom they would like to share Jesus with. Get the kids to pray for them and write a card or letter to tell their friends how much Jesus loves them and invite them to our upcoming Easter musical.

## HOOK &amp; REVIEW

## REVIEW MEMORY VERSE WITH ACTIONS

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* **Acts 1:8**

actions:

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[younger kids]

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere."* **Acts 1:8**

actions: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S-vDfGPoQU0&t=39s>

## HOOK

## Transformation

Show a picture of a caterpillar and how it goes through metamorphosis into a butterfly. You may want to use a story book or video, if suitable.

## Blind Man's Buff

Blindfold a child and get him/her to do certain tasks, e.g. walk from one end of the room to the other, find an item or catch friends.

## STORY (Acts 9)

Remember when we learned about a man called Stephen?

*He was one of the 7 chosen to help serve God's people.*

Do you remember what happened to him? *Yes, he was stoned/killed by people who did not believe Jesus was God.*

When the crowd surrounded Stephen and were throwing stones at him, one man, a Pharisee, stood there giving his approval. This man was called Saul.

**MEET SAUL**

Saul was a very devout Jew. He wanted to obey God and made sure other people obeyed God's laws. He wanted to get rid of the people who believed Jesus was God. When they told others about Jesus, Saul thought they were spreading lies, and wanted to stop them once and for all.

He went to the places where these followers of Jesus gathered and arrested men and women and had them thrown in jail. He went to the high priest and asked for permission to go to the synagogues in Damascus and arrest all those who were preaching there about Jesus.

So Saul and some men began the journey to Damascus. As they were getting closer, something happened. A bright light flashed from heaven. Saul fell to the ground.

And he heard a voice. *"Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me (or why are you hurting me)?"*

"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked, terrified.

The voice replied, *"I am Jesus of Nazareth. I am the One you are persecuting."* When Saul was hurting believers, he was really hurting Jesus Himself. Jesus told Saul to go to Damascus, where he would receive instructions of what to do next.

The bright light disappeared, and Saul and his men were all alone again. As Saul got up from the ground, he opened his eyes but he couldn't see anything! His men took him by the hand and led him into Damascus.

Meanwhile in Damascus there's a believer named Ananias. Jesus appeared to him in a vision.

"Ananias!"

"Yes Lord," he answered.

Jesus told him to go to a house and ask for a man named Saul, place his hands on him and restore his sight.

ACTS:  
SAUL MET JESUS

Now, Ananias has heard about Saul. In fact, he was probably hiding from him. He didn't want to be killed or thrown into prison. *"Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."*

But Jesus told him to go. Jesus had chosen Saul to do a great work and to tell all the Jews and non-Jews about Him.

So Ananias went to the house. He placed his hands on Saul and said, *"Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit."*

Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again! He got up and was baptized. And after taking some food, he regained his strength.

After that experience, Saul was truly transformed. He became known as Paul. Instead of persecuting Christians for believing in Jesus, he went far and wide to tell people all over the world about Jesus.

If Jesus can transform a man like Saul, He can transform all of us too!

## LESSON

**JESUS CARES FOR US**

After Stephen died, the followers of Jesus were persecuted/attacked. They were chased out of their homes, dragged to prison, killed etc.

Jesus wasn't blind or deaf. He saw what was happening. In fact, He was suffering along with them. When He met Saul, he asked him, "Why are you persecuting me?"

When others attack us for believing in Jesus, they are actually attacking Jesus. So, we do not have to be afraid. When we go through challenges, know that Jesus is always there. He cares for us. And He is carrying us through.

**JESUS TRANSFORMS US**

Like a caterpillar transformed into a butterfly, Saul met the Risen Savior on his way to Damascus and was transformed. He was no longer an enemy of God; now he was God's child! Saul went to Damascus as a blood-thirsty Pharisee, out to destroy the church and to stop people from believing in Jesus. He arrived as a changed man and follower of Jesus.

When we meet Jesus, we are changed. **2 Cor 5:17** *"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation."*

**GOD HAS A PLAN FOR OUR LIVES**

Remember **Acts 1:8**? *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

The disciples were telling people about Jesus in Jerusalem. Then Stephen was killed, and they ran to Judea and Samaria, telling more people about Jesus. And Jesus told Ananias that Saul was chosen *"to carry His name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel"*. That's to the ends of the earth!

God has work for each one of His children. **Ephesians 2:10** says *"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."*

What work do you think God has prepared for you to do?

## ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS


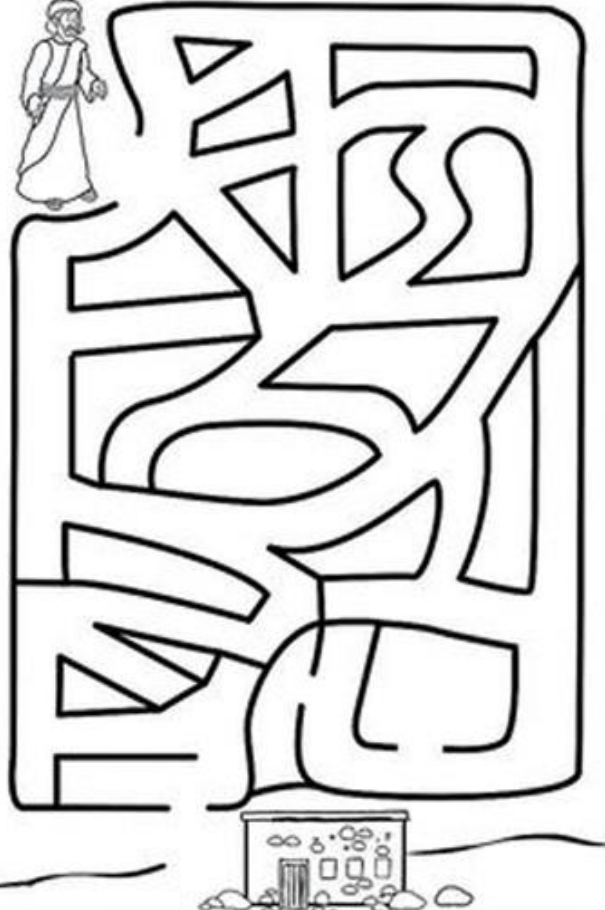
**Huddle Time** [important to get the kids to learn to pray for and share Jesus with those who do not yet know Him]

Get the kids to pray for those whom they want to share Jesus with. Encourage them to write a card or letter to tell their friends how much Jesus loves them and invite them to our upcoming Easter musical.

## WORKSHEET



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

 <p>Saul was _____ by a light from heaven. _____ spoke to Saul when he fell to the ground. Ananias was _____ of Saul, because he had harmed many believers. God told Ananias to go to a _____ where Saul was staying. Ananias _____ God.</p> <p>Word Bank:    house    God                  obeyed    blinded    afraid</p>	<p>Help Ananias find the house where Saul was staying .</p> 
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**JESUS TRANSFORMS**

Write out 2 Cor 5:17

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What's our theme verse? Acts 1:8

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## REVIEW &amp; HOOK

## REVIEW MEMORY VERSE WITH ACTIONS

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[younger kids]

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere."* **Acts 1:8**

actions: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S-vDfGPoQU0&t=39s>

ACTS:  
PETER & CORNELIUS**HOOK****Clean or Unclean**

Materials: half glass bottle of water, half glass bottle of cooking oil, dishwashing liquid  
(You should practice beforehand so you know how much detergent to put in etc)

[Pour the water into the oil and swish them around in the bottle. The liquids may seem to mix together for a while, but will then return to 2 distinct layers]

Some things just don't mix together. Like oil and water. They are always separate from one another.

Previously, God's special people, the Jews, would not mix with anyone who is NOT a Jew. Those people (NOT-Jews) were called Gentiles. The Jews followed God's laws, so they considered themselves "clean". The Gentiles didn't follow God, so they were "unclean". They were like oil, and Gentiles were like water. They didn't mix.

Today we will learn how Jesus came to die and save ... not just the Jews, but also the Gentiles. It is Jesus who breaks the barrier between the Jews and the Gentiles so that we can all be one family of God in Christ.

[Pour a little bit of detergent into the glass bottle and swish it around again. This time, the water and the oil will form one mixture.]

In today's story, we learn how God had to teach Peter (a Jew) that even the Gentiles can receive God's gift of salvation.

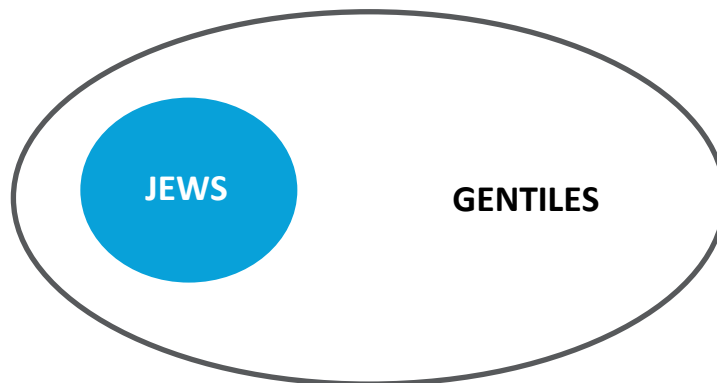
ACTS:  
PETER & CORNELIUS

## BACKGROUND

(for teachers & older kids)

Under the Old Covenant, God called Abraham out as His special friend. Abraham's descendants/family would be God's special people. These were the Israelites, also called the Jews. The Jews were God's special people. God's perfect Savior was going to be born from the Jews.

God had special laws for the Jews to follow. These laws were to protect His people and also to make them different from the other people (called the Gentiles) who worshipped idols/false gods. Are you a Jew or Gentile?



One of the laws they followed was the type of food they could or couldn't eat. Jews could only eat the food that God said were "clean". They were not allowed to eat any food that were considered "unclean". It's a bit like the Muslims and their "halal" or "non-halal" food. (see pix on next page)

CLEAN

UNCLEAN

The laws about being "clean" and "unclean" were not to allow the Jews to think they were better than the Gentiles. It was to preserve a way for God to come as a man to save the world from their sins. The Jews may not have fully understood then, but God's plan was always for Gentiles to be a part of His family.

And after Jesus, the promised Saviour, came to die for the sins of the whole world (not just the Jews), God began revealing His gift of salvation to the whole world.



What did God say to eat under the old law?

### Clean Food



### UnClean Food



All graphics © Microsoft

ACTS:  
PETER & CORNELIUS

## STORY (Acts 10)

**MEET CORNELIUS**

Today we learn about a man named Cornelius.

**Acts 10:1-2** *At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. <sup>2</sup> He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly.*

What do we know about Cornelius?

- He lived in Caesarea
- He was a centurion of the Italian Regiment  
(A centurion: A commander in charge of up to 100 men. Regiment: battalion/legion of about 6,000 men.)
- Cornelius was NOT a Jew, but he lived a life following the example of devout Jewish people.
- He gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly.

Although Cornelius was a good man, he was not saved. Like all of us, he also had sin, which blocked him from God. He had not heard the Good News that Jesus died on the cross for his sins.

One day, God sent an angel to speak to Cornelius while he was praying. God told Cornelius to send for a man named Peter in Joppa. So, Cornelius sent 3 men to bring Peter back to him.

**PETER'S VISION**

*(Suggestion: Prepare a large white sheet with several "unclean" soft toy animals in them. Get 4 kids to hold the 4 corners and move the sheet up and down as you tell the story)*

While the 3 men were on the way to find Peter, God was also busy preparing Peter's heart. Why?

Because Cornelius was a Gentile (not a Jew). And to Peter, a Jew, Gentiles were "unclean". Jews were NOT supposed to mix with Gentiles.

In Acts 10:9-14, God sent Peter a dream. Peter was praying, and around noon time, he started feeling hungry. While waiting for the food to be prepared, he fell into a trance/dream-like state.

He saw heaven open and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. It contained all kinds of unclean animals — four-footed creatures, reptiles and birds. Then a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat."



ACTS:  
PETER & CORNELIUS

Peter resisted. He was a good Jew. He couldn't eat unclean animals. *"Surely not, Lord! I have never eaten anything impure or unclean."*

The voice said, *"Do not call anything impure that God has made clean."*

This happened again. And again. After the third time, immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.

Peter wasn't sure what the vision meant. But as he was thinking about it, the 3 men sent by Cornelius arrived at the house and asked for him.

The Holy Spirit told Peter, *"Three men are looking for you. So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them."*

So Peter welcomed them in.

**PETER TELLS CORNELIUS ABOUT JESUS**

The next day, Peter went to Cornelius' house with the 3 men and some other believers from Joppa.

Cornelius greeted him warmly, and his house was full of people waiting for Peter.

Peter said to them, *"You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean."*

*"I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right."*

Peter told them all about Jesus and what He did when He was on earth, how He died on the cross and was raised from the dead, and the gift of forgiveness that comes from Him.

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all those in the house. The Jewish believers were surprised to see the Holy Spirit touching the Gentiles (the "unclean" people) — they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God!

Since God already poured out His Spirit on the Gentiles, Peter decided to baptize all those who wanted to believe in Jesus. *"Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have."*



## LESSON

**SIN MAKES US UNCLEAR. JESUS MAKES US CLEAN**

Because of sin, both Jews and Gentiles could not go near to God. Jesus' death on the cross cleansed everything unclean. When we have Jesus, we are holy enough to stand before God.

**GOD'S LOVE IS FOR EVERYONE. JESUS' GIFT OF SALVATION IS FOR EVERYONE**

God doesn't look at people the same way as we do. He doesn't like people or not like them based on their skin color, size or where they live. He doesn't care if they are smelly and dirty, or big and important. God sees the heart of every man, woman, boy and girl. And He loves us all.

When Jesus died on the Cross, He died for every one of us. So that you and I, who are Gentiles, can now be part of God's family.

So now ... let's share this Good News to everyone who does not know Jesus yet!

## ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

**MEMORY VERSE**

**Acts 10:34-35** *"God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear Him and do what is right."*

**HUDDLE TIME** [important to get the kids to learn to pray for and share Jesus with those who do not yet know Him]

Get the kids to pray for those whom they want to share Jesus with. Encourage them to write a card or letter to tell their friends how much Jesus loves them and invite them to our upcoming Easter musical.

## HOOK &amp; REVIEW

## REVIEW MEMORY VERSE WITH ACTIONS

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* **Acts 1:8**

actions:

<i>But you:</i>	point forward
<i>will receive power:</i>	pull down both arms into muscle position
<i>when the Holy Spirit comes on you:</i>	use hand to bring a flame/dove onto top of head
<i>and you will be my witnesses:</i>	cup hands around mouth
<i>in Jerusalem:</i>	point finger in front of you
<i>and in all Judea:</i>	use finger to draw a circle in front of you
<i>and Samaria:</i>	use finger to draw a bigger circle
<i>and to the ends of the earth:</i>	stretch both arms as wide as possible

[younger kids]

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere."* **Acts 1:8**

actions: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S-vDfGPoQU0&t=39s>

## STORY (Acts 12)

King Herod was the king of the Jews. He persecuted Christians and tried to hurt them. He ordered that the Apostle James be put to death by a sword. The whole Jerusalem church must have been very sad as well as afraid that one of the apostles had been killed by King Herod.

But the Jews that did not believe in Jesus were happy and thought King Herod had done the right thing. King Herod wanted to be popular with the Jews, so he had the Apostle Peter arrested. He planned to have a public trial to accuse Peter and stop him teaching about King Jesus.

Peter had chains put around his wrists and feet, and he was chained between two guards. There were also guards guarding the prison doors.

When Peter had been arrested, the Christians in Jerusalem gathered together and **prayed very earnestly** to God. Many of them gathered at the home of a woman named Mary and prayed that Peter would be released from prison

The night before Peter's trial, he was **sleeping** in the prison chained between the two guards when someone woke him up. It was an angel. The angel told Peter to get up and get dressed. **His chains immediately fell off**. Peter followed the angel past all the guards and out of the prison. When they came to the locked city gates, the gates just opened all on their own.

Peter followed the angel out of the city and to the end of a street. All this time, Peter thought he must be having a vision. Then, as quickly as he appeared, the angel vanished.

When Peter looked around, he realised that this was no vision. He really was outside the city! God had sent an angel to save him.

Peter quickly made his way to the home of one of the Christians, Mary. He knew that other Christians liked to meet there.

A servant girl named Rhoda answered the door and she couldn't believe what she was seeing. She was happy, surprised and so shocked that she left Peter standing there and didn't even let him in.

When Rhoda told the others that Peter was at the door they didn't believe her. They thought she was seeing things that weren't there.

But when they went and checked, they realised Rhoda was right. God had answered their prayers. Peter was out of prison. Peter spent time with the Christians who had been praying and then he went to another place so Herod could not find him.

Herod was extremely angry. When he could not find Peter, he had all the guards executed.

The logo for the book of Acts, featuring the word "Acts" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letter "t" is replaced by a white cross. The background is a yellow and orange geometric pattern.TNCC  
CHILDREN'S  
CHURCH

# ACTS: PETER FREE FROM PRISON

King Herod was so angry that he travelled to another city to settle some business. The people in the other city were afraid Herod would be angry at them and stop letting them buy food. So they began to praise Herod and say he was God.

Herod should have stopped the people and corrected them. But instead of telling him he was not God, he just let them keep saying it. Then something shocking happened. An angel struck Herod down and was "eaten by worms" and died.

Herod thought he could kill leaders of the church and stop God. He thought he was as good as God. But he was not. The church only continued to grow more after this. Here's the last verse in the Bible Story: *"God's message continued to spread and reach more and more people"*. (Acts 12:24)

## LESSON

**PETER WAS ASLEEP**

On the night before the public trial, Peter slept. That was amazing, considering Peter knew that he will most likely be put to death based on false charges (tell lies about the wrongs he did) like what they did to Steven. Some of us even have problems sleeping before a big exam or when we are worried about something. It showed that Peter had the peace that Jesus had when Jesus slept during the storm and the disciples had to wake him up as they were afraid of drowning. (Mark 4: 35-41)

**GOD ANSWERS PRAYERS**

While Peter was in prison, the church prayed very earnestly for him. God answers prayers. Sometimes the answer may come at the last minute, like Peter, but God is not late. He loves us, knows what is the best time so we can trust him to work things about for our good.

**PETER JUST FOLLOWED**

Peter didn't know when the chains fell off.

Let's go through again what happened:

- Peter got up and the chains fell off
- He got dressed
- Put on his coat
- Followed the angel
- Left the cell
- Passed 1st and 2nd guards
- Passed the city gate
- Walked down the street
- Angel left him
- Then only he realised his chains fell off and he was free

Rather than thinking of his rescue, Peter was focusing on what the angel was asking him to do. He was thinking of what was it that God was saying to him.

The more we focus on what God is saying to us, the more we find out about that we have Jesus' life and trust Him to take care of us, we will find that we won't be so fearful and worried. The things that used to make us afraid, sad or worried will fall off like chains.

**Colossians 3:1-3** reminds us to focus on that we have a new life in Jesus, rather than the things of this world, which include the problems we are facing.

*"Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. <sup>2</sup> Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. <sup>3</sup> For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God".*

Jesus said in **John 8:32** *"And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

## ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

**TESTIMONY**

Share a testimony of how Jesus helped you or another person go through a very difficult time.

**MEMORY VERSE**

**Colossians 3:2-3** *Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God”.*

**HUDDLE TIME**

Get them to share prayer points and pray knowing that we have a God who cares, listens and answers.



## REVIEW &amp; HOOK

## REVIEW MEMORY VERSE WITH ACTIONS

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* **Acts 1:8**

actions:

<i>But you:</i>	point forward
<i>will receive power:</i>	pull down both arms into muscle position
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[younger kids]

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere."* **Acts 1:8**

actions: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S-vDfGPoQU0&t=39s>

**HOOK****Obstacle Course**

Set up a multi-stage obstacle course. Consider using cones or buckets for kids to weave between, a table to crawl under, a playground ball to bounce three times, and something to jump over. Use a stopwatch to time each kid as he goes through the course.

Say: Each of those obstacles slowed down your progress of getting to the other side. Today we will talk about a man named Paul who faced many obstacles as he traveled around telling people about Jesus.

**Play Travel**

Attach washi/masking tape on the floor to create a system of roads/runways/tracks. Encourage children to drive toy vehicles along the roads. Add blue paper for kids to pretend to float boats on a lake. Talk about different ways to travel and ask boys and girls to talk about the places they have visited.

Say: When the Holy Spirit told Paul and Barnabas to go on a journey to tell people about Jesus, they couldn't ride a train or fly in an airplane. They traveled to some places by boat, but they mostly walked. They obeyed the Holy Spirit and even when people tried to stop them, they kept on telling people about Jesus.

ACTS:  
PAUL & BARNABAS

## STORY (Acts 13)

When we believe in Jesus, He invites us on an adventure with Him as we share the news of His glory and love. We do that by reaching people of all nations, and we are able to do that by the power of Jesus, through the Holy Spirit in us. That's why we are here on earth!

Last week we learned about Peter's escape from prison. It wasn't the result of a super great plan the church carried out. God rescued Peter from prison. God still had plans for Peter, and since nothing can stop God's plans, nothing could prevent God from getting Peter out of prison.

This week, we will look at another part of God's plan that involved Paul.

Have you ever been on a long trip? How did you travel?

Paul and Barnabas were sent on a special trip—a trip to tell others of God's grace. But not everyone was happy as they preached. Read on to discover what happened.

## VIDEO

Paul and Barnabas Became Missionaries <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuQN9F1IA9M>

## SET APART FOR A SPECIAL MISSION

Paul and Barnabas had worked together in Antioch for a year. They kept busy teaching, preaching, and helping people. And the church in Antioch grew and grew.

One day some of the members were fasting and praying. They were asking God to guide them, to tell them what He wanted them to do. While they were praying, the Holy Spirit spoke to them. He said, "I have called Paul and Barnabas to do a special work for Me. Place your hands on them. Then pray for them and send them off to tell the good news in other places."

Everyone was sad when they heard that Paul and Barnabas were going away. But they also wanted others to hear about Jesus. So the Antioch believers fasted and prayed. Then they gathered for a special prayer meeting. The elders in the church laid hands on Paul and Barnabas and prayed for them. Then they sent them on their way.

Paul and Barnabas took a young man, John Mark, with them. He would learn from them and help them in their work. The three of them caught a boat at the port of Salamis and sailed to Cyprus. They traveled across the island, stopping at all the Jewish synagogues and teaching everyone who would listen.

**OBSTACLE #1: MEETING A FALSE PROPHET**

Soon they moved on to Paphos, on the other side of the island. There they met a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet called Bar-Jesus, or Elymas. He was an important man and one of the attendants of the Roman governor, Sergius Paulus.

Cyprus was not a huge island, so news of strangers traveled fast. The proconsul soon heard about Paul and his companions. He was curious to hear the Word of God. Elymas was not happy about that. He was afraid that he would lose his influence with the governor. So he tried to turn the governor against Paul and his friends.

But the Holy Spirit showed Paul what was happening. Suddenly Paul turned and looked directly at Elymas. "You are a child of the devil. You are an enemy of everything that is right. You are full of tricks and ways to fool people. You will never stop trying to put roadblocks in the way of the Lord. Because of your actions, you will be blind for a while. You will not be able to see the light of the sun."

Immediately Elymas felt a dark mist rolling in front of his eyes. He blinked. He rubbed his eyes. He tried to push it away. Everything got darker and darker. Elymas was blind. He could not see a thing! He began to reach out for a hand to guide him so he did not fall.

The governor was amazed. One moment Elymas could see; the next he was blind. This convinced the governor that Paul was teaching the truth. He listened and learned, and he soon believed in God.

**OBSTACLE #2: OPPOSITION FROM JEWS**

Paul, Barnabas, and John Mark traveled on to many other places. Everywhere they went they told everyone the good news: God's grace is free and available to everyone.

Some Jews were not happy when they saw many people listening to Paul and Barnabas preaching. They were jealous and began to argue with Paul and insult him. They got the people in the city to rise up against Paul and Barnabas and chase them out of their region.

But despite the opposition, Paul and Barnabas were still filled with the joy of the Lord. They never stopped praising Jesus and telling people about His love. Because Paul remembered what God told him: *"I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth."* (Acts 13:47)

We can be like Paul and his friends. We too can tell people we meet about God's wonderful love and grace. We do not need to be afraid of obstacles or opposition because we receive Jesus' power when we have His Holy Spirit!

## ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

**MEMORY VERSE**

**Acts 13:47** *"I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth."*

**HUDDLE TIME** [important to get the kids to learn to pray for and share Jesus with those who do not yet know Him]

Get the kids to pray for those whom they want to share Jesus with.

## REVIEW &amp; HOOK

## REVIEW MEMORY VERSE WITH ACTIONS

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* **Acts 1:8**

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*But you:* point forward

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*in Jerusalem:* point finger in front of you

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*and to the ends of the earth:* stretch both arms as wide as possible

[younger kids]

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere."* **Acts 1:8**

actions: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S-vDfGPoQU0&t=39s>

## STORY (Acts 16)

## RECAP

Earlier, we had learnt about Peter being arrested — and how an angel led him out of prison. King Herod Agrippa ordered a thorough search for him, and when he couldn't be found, Herod interrogated the guards and sentenced them to death.

Today, we visit the prison again, but this time with Paul and Silas.

## JOURNEY TO MACEDONIA

Paul, Silas and Timothy travelled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia. They were stopped by the **Holy Spirit** from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, **but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them.**

At Troas, Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, *"Come over to Macedonia and help us."* After that, they concluded that God had called them to preach the gospel to Macedonia. They, joined by Luke (the writer of Acts), then traveled to **Philippi, a Roman colony** and the leading city of Macedonia.

On the Sabbath, they went outside the city gate to the river, where they sat down and shared the gospel with the women there. One of them was **Lydia**, a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. She **and her household believed in Jesus and were baptized.**

One day when Paul and his companions were going to the place of prayer, they were met by a slave girl who had an evil spirit that gave her the ability to predict the future. She earned a lot of money for her owners by fortune-telling. She followed Paul and his companions, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." She did this for many days. Finally, Paul became so annoyed that he told the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ, I command you to come out of her!" At that moment, the spirit left her and she could not tell the future anymore.

When her owners realized that they could no longer make money from her fortune-telling, they seized Paul and Silas and brought them before the magistrates. They told lies about Paul and Silas, saying that they were troublemakers who taught customs against the Roman law.





ACTS:  
PAUL & SILAS IN PRISON

Paul and Silas were stripped, beaten with rods and severely flogged. Then they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. He put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight, Paul and Silas were **praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.**

Suddenly, there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and **everyone's chains came loose. The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open,** he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted, *"Don't harm yourself! We are all here!"*

The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

They replied, ***"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved — you and your household."*** Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. <sup>33</sup> At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God — he and his whole household.

When it was daylight, the magistrates sent their officers to the jailer with the order: "Release those men." Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to Lydia's house, where they met with the brothers and sisters and encouraged them.





## LESSON

**PAUL LET THE HOLY SPIRIT LEAD HIM**

We saw that the Holy Spirit stopped Paul and his companions from going to Asia and Bithynia, leading Paul to Macedonia instead. We are not told the reason.

When we do things with Jesus, His Spirit (the Holy Spirit) will lead us to people whom He wants us to share the gospel with.

When Paul followed the Holy Spirit, he saw God's wonderful work, where:

- Lydia and her family accepted Jesus
- A new church was started — the Philippian church, where Paul would later write a letter to
- A slave girl was set free from the evil spirit

When the slave girl's owners realized that they could no longer make money from her fortune-telling, they seized Paul and Silas and told lies about them, causing them to be beaten and severely flogged and thrown into prison. But even in prison, Paul and Silas followed the Holy Spirit's leading. Although Paul's chains became loose and the prison doors were opened after the earthquake, he did not leave the prison.

This was unlike Peter, who was told by the angel to leave the prison. Does anyone remember what happened to Peter's guards? They were executed for letting Peter escape. But Paul was not told by God to leave the prison, so he didn't. Because he stayed in prison, the jailer did not kill himself, but instead, he and his household accepted Jesus!

**WHEN THINGS GO WRONG ...**

When Paul and Silas were wrongly accused, beaten and thrown into prison, what happened? Were they grumbling and complaining? No, Paul and Silas were **praying and singing hymns to God!** They were still trusting in Jesus, no matter how bad the situation looked.

Let's look at what Paul later wrote to the Philippian church: ***"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ... The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*** (Philippian 4:4-7)

Paul and Silas were looking to Jesus, not at their problems, i.e. being unfairly treated, feeling pain from the beating, being locked up in prison. They prayed and passed all their problems to Jesus. They had God's peace.

Likewise, when you have problems, don't look at the problems and be afraid or discouraged. Tell Jesus you are not able to handle the problems, but He can — and pass all the problems to Him. When we pass our problems to Him, we don't have to worry about them. Jesus can take care of our problems for us.

The result — Paul and Silas showed that they had Jesus' life. This is a very important part of sharing the gospel to people who do not know Jesus. The other prisoners and the jailer saw and recognized that there was something different about Paul and Silas and how they responded to their situation.

#### **WITNESS FOR JESUS**

Paul and Silas had Jesus' life. When we have the Holy Spirit in us, we will have a desire to share the gospel because that is God's desire. He wants people to come to know him and be saved because He loves them. *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."* (John 3:16)

Let's be ready to share Jesus with our family, relatives and friends. Ask Jesus to help you, and He will teach you what to say and when to say it.

Share a testimony of how you shared the gospel with another person.

## ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

**HUDDLE TIME**

Get the kids to share a challenge or problem that they are currently facing. Ask everyone to pretend they are holding a heavy bowling ball (their problems). Tell them not to focus downward on the heavy ball, but to focus upward on Jesus. Together, everyone throws the ball upwards and say, *“Lord Jesus, I give my problems to you!”*

## REVIEW &amp; HOOK

## REVIEW MEMORY VERSE WITH ACTIONS

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* **Acts 1:8**

actions:

*But you:* point forward

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*in Jerusalem:* point finger in front of you

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*and to the ends of the earth:* stretch both arms as wide as possible

[younger kids]

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere."* **Acts 1:8**

actions: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S-vDfGPoQU0&t=39s>

## HOOK

**Blindman's Bluff**

Blindfold one of the children and hand him simple objects (try and make them tricky). Let him try and guess what the object is by feeling it, but not seeing it.

After a few guesses allow the blindfolded student to remove his blindfold and see what he was feeling. Ask him to tell what it was like to hold something but not be able to tell what it was. Ask if it would have been helpful to be given some hints.

Many people in this world go through life with blindfolds ... they cannot see or know who God is. But when we believe in Jesus, we have our blindfolds removed and we can see clearly. So we can help those who are blindfolded.

## STORY (Acts 13)

## REVIEW

Paul is on his Second Missionary Journey with Silas. Paul went to Lystra and invited Timothy to join them. They then went to Troas after the Spirit told them to not go to Asia and a vision sent them to Macedonia. In **Philippi**, they met Lydia, and the church began with her and her household believing in Jesus. After healing a servant girl from a demon, Paul and Silas were put in jail illegally. After the town leaders realized their mistake, they asked Paul and Silas to leave quietly.



## OPPOSITION TO THE GOSPEL

After leaving Philippi, Paul and Silas went to the city of **Thessalonica**. Paul went into the synagogue to meet with the Jews, as he always did. For three weeks, on each Sabbath Day, Paul talked with them about the Scriptures. Paul said, "This Jesus I am telling you about is the Messiah." Some of the Jews believed Paul and Silas, and they decided to join them.

But the Jews who did not believe were jealous. They formed a mob and started a riot in the city. They went to the home of Paul's friend Jason, looking for Paul and Silas. They were not there, so the mob dragged Jason and some of the other believers to the city leaders. "They say there is another king—Jesus!" the mob shouted. The city leaders were upset. They made Jason and the other believers pay money, and then they let them go.

That night, Paul and Silas went to another city called **Berea**. The people there listened to Paul's message, and they studied the Scriptures to make sure he was telling them the truth. Many people in Berea believed the good news. But the Jews in Thessalonica heard what Paul was up to in Berea. They followed him there and caused trouble, so Paul left and went to the city of **Athens** in Greece.

## ATHENS: AN UNKNOWN GOD?

Paul was upset by what he saw in Athens. The people there were very intellectual, but they did not worship the one true God. Instead, they worshiped many idols. Paul talked with the people who lived in Athens and told them the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.

The men asked Paul to explain what he was talking about. (The Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.) Paul went to a meeting with them and said, *“Men of Athens, I can see that you are very religious. I saw in your city an altar that said: ‘TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.’ You worship a god that you do not know. This is the God I want to tell you about.”*

Paul told the people about the one true God. He explained that God made everything and that He is bigger than man-made temples. God is not like the idols in Athens. He is not made of gold, silver, or stone. Paul said that God wants everyone in the world to stop worshipping idols and turn to Him.

The resurrection of Jesus is God’s way of proving that He is God. *“He has given proof to this to all men by raising [Jesus] from the dead.”* When the people heard this, some of them laughed. Some of them wanted to hear more later. Some of them joined Paul and became believers.

### TENTMAKING

Later, Paul left Athens and went to the city of **Corinth**. There he met a Jewish man named Aquila and his wife, Priscilla. They were tentmakers, and so was Paul, so Paul stayed with them and worked with them. On the Sabbath Days, Paul went to the synagogues to preach. Paul stayed in Corinth for a year and a half, teaching God’s message to the people. Then Paul left to go back to Antioch.

### CHRIST CONNECTION

The men of Athens worshipped many false gods, but yet they knew something was missing, that there was Someone far bigger and far more powerful. So they also set up an altar for “AN UNKNOWN GOD”.

Paul decided to introduce this God to them. He explained to the men about how the God of heaven and earth is the only God who should be worshipped. He talked about Jesus and His resurrection. People can know God because Jesus took the punishment for sin that separates people from God.

You know, many people consider God a mystery, but He can be known, and He wants to be known. Of course, we’ll never know everything about God — He’s too big and great — but we can know Him enough to understand who He is and to have a personal relationship with Him. This week, I hope you will not only get to know about God, but also get to know God as your friend, your Father, your King.

And like Paul and Silas, let’s continue to share about the good news of Jesus to everyone, even if we face opposition or persecution. Because it is good news worth sharing to the whole world!

### VIDEO

Bible Kids: Paul teaches in Athens <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nc19ciEhHzw>

## ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

**MEMORY VERSE**

**Acts 17:24** *"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands."*

**HUDDLE TIME** [important to get the kids to learn to pray for and share Jesus with those who do not yet know Him]

Get the kids to pray for themselves and each other to have boldness to introduce the unknown God to their friends who do not yet know Him.

## HOOK &amp; REVIEW

## REVIEW MEMORY VERSE WITH ACTIONS

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* **Acts 1:8**

actions:

<i>But you:</i>	point forward
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[younger kids]

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere."* **Acts 1:8**

actions: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S-vDfGPoQU0&t=39s>



## STORY (Acts 19)

Paul was in Ephesus and he found some disciples, about 12 of them.

He asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"

They said to him, "We have never even heard of a Holy Spirit!"

Paul asked them, "So what kind of baptism did you have?"

They said, "It was the baptism that John (Remember John the Baptist) taught."

Paul said, "John told people to be baptized to show they wanted to change their lives, e.g. stop doing things like stealing and bullying, but instead share with people in need. He told people to believe in the one who would come after him, and that one is Jesus."

When these disciples heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Paul laid his hands on them, and the Holy Spirit came on them. They began speaking different languages and prophesying.

Paul continued to share about Jesus. He went to a place where a man named Tyrannus had a school. There Paul talked with people every day. He did this for two years. Because of this work, everyone in Asia, Jews and Greeks, heard the word of the Lord. God used Paul to do some very special miracles. Some people carried away handkerchiefs and clothes that Paul had used and put them on those who were sick. The sick people were healed, and evil spirits left them. Some Jews also were traveling around forcing evil spirits out of people. This is called exorcism. *(There have been many movies on this, and it is better not to watch any of them. These movies are made by people who don't know Jesus so the movies show how powerful these evil spirits are. But we know we have the Holy Spirit which is more powerful than all of them).*

The seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. They used the name of the Lord Jesus to make the evil spirits go out of people. They all said, "In the name of the Jesus whom Paul talks about, I order you to come out!"

One day, when they tried to do this to a man with an evil spirit, he said to them, "I know Jesus, and I know Paul, but who are you?" Then the man who had the evil spirit inside him jumped on them. He was much stronger than all of them. He beat them up and tore all their clothes off. They all ran away from that house naked and wounded.

All the people in Ephesus, Jews and Greeks, learned about this. They were all filled with fear and gave great honor to the Lord Jesus. Many of the believers began to confess, telling about all the evil things they had done. Some of them had used magic. These believers brought their magic books and burned them before everyone. These books were worth about 50,000 silver coins. This is how the word of the Lord was spreading in a powerful way, causing more and more people to believe.

## LESSON

**WHAT MAKES YOU A CHRISTIAN?**

Which of these make you a Christian?

- You attend church/children's church
- Your parents and grandparents are Christians
- You know a number of bible verses by heart

None of the above makes you a Christian. Although the 7 sons of Sceva may have heard something about Jesus and used his name, they did not know him as their Saviour and Lord. They had no personal relationship with him. They did not have the power of the Holy Spirit.

There are many stories about people who attended Sunday School when they were children but never accepted Jesus as their Saviour. Some of them became Christians when they were adults — there are many testimonies of how people came to accept Jesus when they were in a lot of trouble and realised they needed him. (Invite the children to receive Jesus and invite them to pray with you.)

**THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES US POWER**

Not only did Paul have the Holy Spirit, but he also allowed the Holy Spirit to use him to:

- Heal the sick
- Force evil spirits to come out of people
- Pray for people to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit
- Raise a young man back to life in Acts 20:7-12 (the young man fell asleep during Paul's sermon and fell from the 3rd story)

When Paul followed the Holy Spirit, people came to accept Jesus and the sick became well.

Jesus told his disciples that whoever believes in Him will do the miracles He did and they will do even greater things than what He did, because He was going to the Father (John 14:12). He told them, *"You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it"*. (John 14:14). That is a promise to us, too, as we are also His disciples.

When we follow the Holy Spirit and allow him to use us to do his works, people who see Jesus in our lives will want to accept him as their Saviour.

The logo features the word "ACTS" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letter "T" is replaced by a white cross. The background is a vibrant orange and yellow flame-like pattern.**TNCC  
CHILDREN'S  
CHURCH**

# **ACTS: THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES POWER**

When we have the Holy Spirit in us, there are times He will tell us to do certain things, e.g. pray for someone who is sick or having problems, share the gospel with your friend, help your mother with housework etc, or He may tell us to stop doing certain things, like fighting, scolding, playing online games continuously etc. Follow His leading, and you will find Him helping you to do what He wants you to do.

**ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS****TESTIMONY**

Share a testimony of how you came to know Jesus as your Lord and Saviour.

**MEMORY VERSE**

**John 14:14** *"You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it".*

**HUDDLE TIME**

Get them to share prayer points and pray knowing that we have a God who cares, listens and answers.

## REVIEW &amp; HOOK

## REVIEW MEMORY VERSE WITH ACTIONS

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* **Acts 1:8**

actions:

*But you:* point forward

*will receive power:* pull down both arms into muscle position

*when the Holy Spirit comes on you:* use hand to bring a flame/dove onto top of head

*and you will be my witnesses:* cup hands around mouth

*in Jerusalem:* point finger in front of you

*and in all Judea:* use finger to draw a circle in front of you

*and Samaria:* use finger to draw a bigger circle

*and to the ends of the earth:* stretch both arms as wide as possible

[younger kids]

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere."* **Acts 1:8**

actions: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S-vDfGPoQU0&t=39s>

## STORY (Acts 21-28)

**INTRO**

We've been memorising Acts 1:8 for the past few months.

As we journey through the Book of Acts, I hope that you can see how the disciples and the early church became Jesus' witnesses and told people about Him everywhere ... from Jerusalem to Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth.

One person was specially used by God to bring the good news about Jesus to the Gentiles (the people who were not Jews). We've been hearing about some of his adventures in the past few weeks. This person is none other than **Paul**.

**FLASHBACK**

What do you remember about Paul?

- Known as Saul
- A Pharisee
- Responsible for death of Stephen
- Persecuted Christians
- Met Jesus on road to Damascus and was transformed
- Set apart with Barnabas for special mission to share about Jesus to people in other places
- Went on 3 missionary journeys
- Imprisoned with Silas — shared Jesus with jailer after earthquake

ACTS:  
PAUL'S MISSION**ARRESTED & TRIED**

Through Paul, many people came to know about Jesus. But that the Jews very unhappy with him.

So when Paul got back to Jerusalem (after his 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary journey), he was arrested.

Like Jesus, this was not a surprise or shock for Paul. He knew what was waiting for him in Jerusalem, but he still went anyway.

Like Jesus, Paul was brought before the religious and political leaders. He was imprisoned and tried before the Roman governors Felix and then Festus, and then King Agrippa. Every time he was put on trial, he could only talk about Jesus, Jesus, Jesus.

Like with Jesus, the governors and kings could not find anything wrong with Paul.

*"They examined me and wanted to release me, because I was not guilty of any crime deserving death. The Jews objected, so I was compelled to make an appeal to Caesar."* (Acts 28:18-19)

**SHIPWRECKED & BITTEN**

Because Paul was a Roman citizen, he asked to be tried before Caesar in Rome. To get to Rome, they had to board a ship.

But after leaving Crete, there was a great wind (like a hurricane) that battered the ship for days. Everyone had given up hope, but Paul did not. He knew God had a purpose for him in Rome, so he encouraged the people on the ship that they would be safe.

When the ship got stuck and damaged, everyone on board swam towards the nearby island of Malta. As they were warming themselves by a fire, a poisonous snake bit Paul's hand. Everyone thought he would die, but Paul just shook off the snake and was perfectly fine. He even healed the father of the island chief.





### IMPRISONED IN ROME

After 3 months in Malta, Paul reached Rome, where he was placed under house arrest, with a Roman guard with him at all times.

Paul used his imprisonment for Jesus. Even though he was under arrest, he continued to preach to any non-believers who came to see him. He even preached to the soldiers with him. He continued to teach any Christians who visited him. He wrote letters to the churches he had already established on his previous missionary journeys to encourage and teach them (Philippians, Ephesians, Colossians etc). He used all his time for Jesus Christ in any situation.

The book of Acts ends with this description of Paul.

*He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance. (Acts 28:31)*

Other historical records tell us that Paul was released after two years, but then rearrested and imprisoned (during which he wrote 2 Timothy). Later he was executed by the Roman Emperor. But in his letter to Timothy, Paul was unafraid of what laid ahead.

***“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.***

*Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day —and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for His appearing.”*

***(2 Tim 4:7-8)***

### THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES ...

Jesus' last command to his disciples (to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth) still holds true today for each and every one of us.

May we be like Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, to talk about Jesus, Jesus, Jesus to everyone we meet, everywhere we go!

### VIDEO

God's Story: Paul [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R0pOW\\_Zbt1s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R0pOW_Zbt1s)

## ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

**WALK THRU' NEW TESTAMENT REVIEW**

(for older kids: to review with kids who attended the camp and to tie in with the lesson; see slides for reference of actions)

*Paul's Conversion*

*First Missionary Journey*

*Two years*

*Galatia*

*Jerusalem*

*Council*

*Law? No!*

*Second Missionary Journey*

*Three Years*

*Macedonia – Achaia – Greece*

*Third Missionary Journey*

*Four Years*

*Asia*

*Trials*

*Felix*

*Festus*

*Agrippa*

*First Imprisonment*

*Freedom*

*Second Imprisonment*

*Expansion*

ACTS:  
PAUL'S MISSION**MEMORY VERSE**

*He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance. (Acts 28:31)*

**HUDDLE TIME**

Paul was a letter writer and a sharer of Jesus. Get the kids to write a letter to a friend or family member who does not yet know Jesus and share with them about one good thing Jesus has done for them. Pray together for these friends and family.